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Left: The official logo for AmeriCorps. Right: The logo of the Corporation for National Community Service; AmeriCorps is one of its many programs (Logos courtesy of www.americorps.gov)

Alumni Slated to Speak On Americorps Experience

By Kara Marxer, Staff Writer

On Monday, March 13th, several alumni will be giving a presentation on their experiences in AmeriCorps. SJC grads Mike Wallach, Jen Sherburne, and Nick Shafer, along with Purdue grad Katie Berger, will be discussing their time spent in AmeriCorps. The event, hosted by Professor of Mass Communications Fred Berger, will give current SJC students a chance to learn more about AmeriCorps and the opportunities offered through the program.

AmeriCorps was first created in 1994 by then-President Clinton. The first class consisted of 20,000 members who served in over 1,000 communities. Now, AmeriCorps, strengthened by President Bush, is double that size, with more than 40,000 members serving all over the US and US territories. According to their website, the program "impacts both its volunteers and the communities they serve. Performance reviews, research, and policy analysis help develop and cultivate knowledge that enhances the overall effectiveness of AmeriCorps and of national and community service programs.

Numerous reports demonstrate the positive impact AmeriCorps programs have on the volunteers and the communities where they serve" (www.americorps.gov). Individuals serving in AmeriCorps also are more likely to continue their community service after they leave the program.

When asked what his experience in the program did for him, SJC alumnus and Mass Communications major Mike Wallach responded, "Through my AmeriCorps experience I have been able to see more of my true potential. I no longer have the apathetic view of the world and my place in it." Likewise, alumnus Nick Shafer concurs, "The sense of being a part of something larger than myself and sharing the experience with random people from across the country made it all worth while. In some ways I felt like the Lone Ranger—arriving with my team at some random town finishing a service project and then riding off again into the sunset. To freely give all you have to someone else with no expectation of return—

that was the most rewarding part."

Their presentation will consist of "sharing the process to apply, the type of work that AmeriCorps volunteers perform, and their joys and frustrations of community service," says Professor Berger. "We'll also be having an opportunity for a question and answer session after the presentation as well as time for individual questions."

Each of the alums will bring his or her past experiences to share with any interested SJC student. Shafer hopes students will learn, "an understanding of the importance of volunteerism and, most importantly, *some knowledge of the options available to them.*" Each alumnus comes from a different major and different background, so they represent some of the best SJC has to offer and demonstrate that one's academic background does not matter when it comes to volunteering one's time to helping make the world in which we live a better place.

This presentation will not be just a pretty picture of the volunteerism of each of these

grads. Each alum will offer his or her own experiences, both good and bad, during the time he or she spent with AmeriCorps. "Imagine yourself working 55+ hours a week, being paid well below the poverty level, struggling each day to become a better person, surrounded by 40+ idealistic young people, and changing the world one person at a time!" says Wallach. "The past year and a half I have given my all to make the lives of the students I work with better. City Year has given me the freedom to use my own ideas to make change where I see fit."

Shafer says he questioned his decision to join at times, but that for him it was all worth it in the end. "AmeriCorps is tough at times, but if you jump in and don't look back, you cannot imagine how different your life will be."

The presentation will be held on Monday, March 13 at 6:00 p.m. in the Courtney Auditorium. For more information, please contact Fred Berger at ext. 6118 or by email at fredb@saintjoe.edu.

SJC Band Members Perform With Intercollegiate Honor Band

By Katherine Stembel, Office of Publications and Media Relations Intern

Six SJC band members recently performed with the Intercollegiate Honor Band for the 2006 Indiana Music Educators Association Convention. The six music majors, junior Mike Caristi; junior Chris Harmon; sophomore Elizabeth DeMay; junior Clayton Henady; senior Craig Redlin; and junior Taylor Stortz, were nominated by SJC's Director of College Bands Robb Thiel.

"It was a nice honor to be one of the top in college band," said Redlin, a percussionist who has been playing since the sixth grade. "I've improved on my

instrumentation and leadership qualities. Even though it was definitely the hardest music I've ever had to play, it was just an awesome opportunity to be down there with the best of the best in colleges."

The biannual event brought together eighty-four student musicians from many colleges and universities in the state of Indiana for a performance before approximately 500 convention attendees. Guest conductor Dr. Jack Stamp, Professor of Music and Conductor of Bands at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, rehearsed four

songs with the students, including two of his own arrangements.

"This year was probably the best," said Thiel, who coordinated the percussion section of the Intercollegiate Honor Band. "Jack Stamp demanded a lot, but it showed in the final performance. [Intercollegiate Honor Band] gives our best students the opportunity to play more difficult music under the direction of someone really outstanding and sit next to some of the best players in the state."

"I loved the music," said DeMay, an alto saxophonist who has been playing for seven years.

"We got into it and really talked about what the music was about and ideas to think about to make it music. I was so glad I had something challenging to work on."

Participation in the Intercollegiate Honor Band also supplied an enhanced sense of purpose for DeMay. "Before going down to Indianapolis, I didn't have that big of a drive or determination to become a better musician," she began, "but that experience renewed the spirit of becoming the best. After playing that music, it sent me down this path to compete with everybody to see how good I can become."

Problems and Solutions...

For this week's issue, I was very pleased with students' willingness to write in with their opinions of Saint Joseph College's campus life or lack thereof... I also really want to stress to all readers that pointing out the problems with this campus is only part of fixing them. What solutions can work to make SJC a better place for all students?

Involvement is a strong solution as well as finding

channels to work within the system, like student government. I don't know about everyone, but I truly want to say my school's name with pride, not disappointment. After all, four years is a VERY large chunk of one's life. Make your institution work in your favor! Good Luck to the students and college community!

Always,
Elizabeth Genova,
Opinion Editor

Paws & Claws

Paws...

-To Puma Women Today for organizing a trip to see the *Vagina Monologues* and celebrating womanhood.

-To Bonnie Zimmer's Art Education Class and Alan McFarland's French Civilization class for expanding their cultural horizons at the Art Institute of Chicago.



Claws...

-To the new SJC Catalog that has officially eliminated German and French Minors from its options.

-To whoever thinks it is a *great* idea to perform bodily functions(i.e. urinate) in communal dorm microwaves...*G-R-O-S-S*.

And now a special treat/double feature for our readers
by SJC's very own Margaret Broderick...

Student Voice Becomes a Whisper

By Margaret Broderick, *Outside Contributor*

Ever feel that your opinions are left unnoticed? SA is the proper outlet for any grievance from our student body towards faculty and administration. Yet this magnificent source to express need for change is not utilized. Student Association exists for the sole purpose of bringing about necessary alterations in academics and student life.

Poor attendance at Student Senate meetings has diminished the credibly and effectiveness of student opinion. This, in turn, hurts the student body as a whole. If students are unwilling to volunteer their time and input, how are our opinions going to be taken seriously?

Many students, as well as

faculty and administration, are concerned with the growing student apathy. SA is not the only important organization suffering from this stagnant participation. Other monumental institutions in great need of student support are SUB and Traditions Council. These two clubs are in charge of entertainment, Homecoming, and Little 500. These events are valued by the entire St. Joe community. The existence of these clubs depends on students.

If you value your plausibility as a student, weekly entertainment, and traditional activities, I urge you to volunteer your free time to any of these three organizations or the more than 30 clubs on campus.

A Letter to the Editor responding to last issue's article "Why Women Cause Everything that's Wrong with the World"...

Women in Leadership

By Margaret Broderick, *Outside Contributor*

"A woman could never be the president of the United States, because she would blow up countries and shoot citizens on a whim while she was menstruating." Shocked by this comment? While candidly discussing women in leadership roles, many males will state that a woman will simply never hold our nation's highest office. The media does not help our young females gain a sense of confidence or aspiration. A popular soft drink distributor mocked female intelligence and rationale with their "if a woman was president..." campaign.

To set the record straight a female president would not make orange pop the national drink, hold board meeting slumber parties, nor would time be taken away from work to fit in a manicure. Unfortunately this company is not the only media outlet discouraging women. Saint Joseph's College Observer printed an article brushing off women's abilities to make coherent decisions. The author went into a small tirade against the unreasonable actions women make when experiencing "PMS." As a woman I was greatly

offended that a passionate female with sound convictions is brushed off as a hormonal head case simply because of her gender. Men can get just as worked up and passionate over certain issues as women.

Unfortunately, men do not seem to be getting worked up about anything more than sports or video games. Student Association, club presidencies, and volunteers in general on campus are majority comprised female students. The active members present at Student Senate are mostly females. Habitat for Humanity, a large and active club on campus, has two active male student volunteers. This small number is compared to the dozens of active female volunteers.

While there are some involved males on campus, many seem to find beer, video games, and television more worthy of their time. Women on campus: I commend you. Please continue to demonstrate strong leadership skills. As for the men, I challenge you to prove me wrong. Please show up at Senate and voice your opinion, hold a leadership position, and make a difference.

Opinions

You have them, we want to read them. This week's issue is flooded with what students think of Campus Life...Do you agree, disagree, or wish we had a new topic to complain about?? Let us know! Please email:

observer-editors@saintjoe.edu

Campus Life???: A Letter to the Editor

Do you ever ask yourself, "Why isn't there anything to do on this campus?" Well, I have heard and made this complaint multiple times in my four years here, and I am entirely too sick of it.

Let me just give a summary of what there is to do on a Friday night here at the Joe... The Rec. Center is open until 2pm, yes 2! As well as the weight room. The Fitness Center miraculously outreaches many of the places on campus by staying open until

6pm. The Library closes at 5 and finally, we have alcohol on campus: Core XI stays open until at least 1:00 AM and sometimes later.

Yes, our on campus bar is the only place on this campus that is open until after the hour of 6pm. No complaints on the alcohol, I could use some right now actually! But sorry to those of you who are under the age of 21. You get the choice of hanging out in your room or in the HUB as the only legitimate activities on this campus. So to all of those

who are drinking underage, keep up the good work. No one's stopping you! Unfortunately, everyone who is actually trying to accomplish something on this campus is being deterred from doing so.

I am not trying to point any fingers at any ONE individual or department, rather, the ENTIRE school. I have become embarrassed to be part of this school and would never recommend anyone to come here UNLESS someone takes the initiative to do a serious

makeover on this place. But that's unlikely because they'd probably get shot down for trying to accomplish something. Maybe our new slogan should be "Come to the school that represses you and makes you feel like a prisoner! UNInvolved for Life!"

Beth Kidwell,
Disgruntled Senior

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Mock Trial Team Competes at Pacific Northwest Regional Competition

By Katie Grgic, Co-Editor in Chief

On Thursday, Feb. 9, 2006, the SJC Mock Trial team flew to the West Coast for the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA) Pacific Northwest Regional Competition at the University of Portland in Portland, Oregon on Feb. 10-12, 2006. This was the first year SJC competed at this particular regional competition; in years past, the team had attended the Rocky Mountain Regional Competition in Ogden, UT. Instead of facing teams like University of Texas and Airforce, whom SJC played for years, SJC faced University of California-Berkeley's A team, Stanford, Gonzaga, and Eastern Washington. Although their overall record was 2-6, the largest margin SJC lost by was 18 points against Berkeley. For facing undergraduate teams from universities with the top three law

schools on the West Coast, SJC did an excellent job holding their own in the regional competition and has a small chance of receiving a bid to nationals. Sponsored by the American Mock Trial Association, the Mock Trial program provides a fictitious case based in the state of "Midlands" each year and requires colleges and universities to plan cases for both plaintiff and defense. After preparing for the better part of a year, which includes studying "Midlands State Law Code," teams travel to compete in a number of regional competitions held across the country, where they present both sides of the case twice and are scored on the quality of the lawyers' questions and objections, the believability of witnesses and overall strategy and presentation. This year's case

is a criminal one in which an employee of a publishing company, angered at being passed over for a promotion, allegedly kidnapped the child of the CEO of his company. The team's showing this year included all four lawyers being ranked on each judge's ballot in recognition of their fine performances, and five of six witnesses ranked as well. As a result of such a strong team performance, SJC did not leave the regional competition empty-handed. The team placed eighth of 22 teams for the prestigious Spirit of AMTA award, which recognizes teams who demonstrate "civility, fair play, and justice." "I am really proud of the team for winning this award," said Computer Systems Analyst and Mock Trial coach Dave DeLauro. "It shows that

SJC not only teaches its students about debate and rational thought but about the civility of living in community." Katie Grgic also received first place in the Best Witness category overall for her role as Jordan Nathanson. The team's members are as follows: captain Kara Marxer, senior Mass Communications – Political Science double major (lawyer, plaintiff and defense); Erin Delaney, junior Criminal Justice major (plaintiff witness, defense lawyer); Ryan Farrar, freshman Political Science major (plaintiff lawyer, defense witness); Katie Grgic, senior English major (plaintiff lawyer, defense witness); Jason Keller, freshman Computer Science major (plaintiff witness); Jeffrey Lawrence, junior History major (defense lawyer); Amy Luksus, senior Biology-Chemistry major

(plaintiff witness); and David Spencer, freshman English major (defense witness). "It was a challenging year," commented Marxer. "We went to Portland, where we faced more difficult teams - like Stanford, Gonzaga and the University of California–Berkeley - than those we have faced in the past. We also lost both captains through graduation last year, we have two freshmen on the team and we just acquired a new member last month. However, the team rose to the numerous challenges presented to us and performed very strongly this year." Lawrence added, "While it was a bit overwhelming to face teams like Stanford and Berkeley, I really didn't mind it - in fact, I liked it a lot. I thought it was a good experience for us to play teams that good, as we learned a lot from playing them."

Alumnus Presents Paper at IAH Conference

By Katie Grgic, Office of Publications and Media Relations Intern

On February 18, 2006, SJC alumnus Eric Hall '04, currently a graduate student at Purdue University pursuing his Master of Arts in American History, presented a paper entitled "Co-Learners and Core: Education Reform at Saint Joseph's College, 1966-1976" at the annual Indiana Association of Historians conference at Hanover College in Hanover, Indiana. The conference, currently in its 26th year, brings together historians from all across the state of Indiana to discuss historical events pertinent to Indiana and society at large.

"This past fall, I sent the IAH program committee a one-page prospectus of my topic and a copy of my curriculum vitae," Hall said. "The committee informed me in early December that my paper had been accepted for presentation. The only other requirement was that I submit a ten-page overview of my research by January 17th." Hall presented his paper as part of a panel titled "Education and Community Interaction" with another history scholar from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. Hall had 30 minutes to present his paper, and then he fielded questions from those in attendance.

Hall began working on his paper as a student at SJC when he took Associate Professor of Political Science Peter Watkins'

Policy Analysis course in the fall of 2002. "The political science paper examined the development and implementation of the Core Curriculum from the advent of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) to the Program's contemporary form," Hall explained. "At the conclusion of the seminar, however, a number of historical questions remained concerning Core's origin and its relationship to nationwide educational trends."

"As a graduate student at Purdue, I returned to SJC this academic year to examine documents on the Core Program kept in the Keith and Kate Robinson Memorial Library," Hall continued. "I found unpublished proceedings of a national workshop on the Core Program held at SJC; student, faculty, and North Central Association (an organization that focuses on accreditation and school improvement) assessments of Core; and correspondence between (National Endowment for the Humanities Distinguished Teaching Professor) Dr. John Nichols and nationally-renowned education experts. I quickly discovered that SJC's revolutionary Core Curriculum has served as a positive model for other colleges and universities, including the University of Alabama."

Hall notes that his research is currently unfinished. "I still need

to examine *Stuff*, SJC's ... student newspaper; *Contact*, the college's magazine; and faculty meeting minutes from the 1960s and 1970s," he said. "My research as of now lacks the voices of students enrolled at SJC during Core's implementation, and I have yet to identify dissenting faculty who may not have agreed with the transition away from a traditional general education model."

For Hall, however, the work is exciting and what he hopes to achieve with his paper makes it all worthwhile. "Ultimately, I hope education historians will include Saint Joseph's College in a national discussion of curriculum reform in the late 1960s. In addition to the contemporary acclaim Core receives, it deserves mention by historical scholars."

Hall hopes to publish the paper this summer after he has had time for revision. "As of right now, I believe the *Indiana Magazine of History* is the best publication for my topic. Rev. Dominic Gerlach, C.P.P.S. (SJC Professor Emeritus of History and German), had his own paper on the St. Joseph's Indian Normal School published in that journal some years ago," Hall said. Publication will bring Hall one step closer to achieving his goal of obtaining recognition of the Core Program and its place in the history of educational reform.

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone: All it's Hyped Up to Be?

By Melissa Alba, Staff Writer

I have a confession to make: I'm a late comer when it comes to reading Harry Potter, having just finished reading the first book yesterday. Yes, I finally broke down and read the first book of the Harry Potter series. For those of you that just experienced a heart attack in my acknowledgement that I have yet to read the words of Rowling's works, let me apologize. I'm sorry, but I never had the interest in reading a book about a boy witch who almost dies and bears a ridiculously looking scar on his forehead. Until now. The reasons why I'm finally reading this book are: a) the movies were interesting, but I was left unsatisfied, so I decided to start from the beginning and read the books; b) it's about wizardry and witchcraft and I want to know why some parents refuse to have their children read the books or watch the movies; c) I'm doing a major paper on this.

I was pleasantly surprised by the depth and complexity of JK Rowling's Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, and the fact that the movie kept pace with the book was another wonderful surprise. I think the opening sequence is a great introduction to the world of "witches" and "muggles." The protagonist, Harry Potter, is the classic underdog/hero, who discovers a new world that accepts and

challenges him. On his journey, Harry exhibits those heroic characteristics that most of us admire and respect: he is humble, friendly, courageous, knows where he stands with good and evil, and he risks his life for others.

Along with the magical Hogwarts school, a great cast of characters is introduced. His friend, Ronald Weasley, is the perfect sidekick and Hermione is great as the sensible and flustered female friend. Adults may have known Snape was not as bad as advertised, but as children find out, some who look out for you aren't always the most trustworthy lot. There is a lot of action and intrigue within the pages of this book. It is a quick and exciting read (I finished the first and second books in about three hours) and I think just about anyone would enjoy it. I am definitely reading the other books (it's part of my research).

Anyways, sometimes the dialogue gets too detailed and I think there are just a few too many plotlines. However, it does require some suspension of disbelief to read a story in which parents send their children to a boarding school in which they may find themselves at risk when facing the forces of terror and darkness. Still, this is a good read, so pick up your broomstick now and get it.

Computer Trouble? Ask the Techies! P.S.: Be Patient and Specific!

By Kyle Purple, Staff Writer

Most of us experience computer problems from time to time; however, a lot of people do not know what to do when disaster strikes. The Computer Center tries to help if they can, but if they are unable to then a student will hear, "Why don't you get a hold of the Techies?" The Techies are the Computer Science Club on campus that offers a great service: free computer troubleshooting and repair. That's correct: the service we

Techies provide is one hundred percent free. We do not get paid in any way, unless you count the good feeling we get when we fix your problem. *cough*

With all the students Saint Joseph's College has, there can be quite a demand for computer-related help. Now, you may have heard someone say that no one responded or that they had trouble getting a time set up. Well, I am going to give you

some pointers on how to get the most help from the Techies.

First things first: please understand that we try to answer your problems as soon as we can. There are only a small number of us, but we are working on expanding. Also, we are doing this on our own free time, and for many of us it is our senior year, which means we keep pretty busy. Please be patient.

My last piece of advice is this: we get many emails that do

not let us know what your problem is. Help a Techie out, man. Give us full details about your problem. You may have contacted the Computer Center, but I know I for one do not have any telekinesis powers, so I cannot just read the thoughts of someone you have talked to about your specific problem. Be descriptive; tell us what Operating System you are running (Windows, OSX, Linux), what type of computer you have

(Dell, HP). Then describe the problem you are having and what you have tried to fix it.

A Techie is a good friend to have. You can email the Techies via techies@saintjoe.edu with computer problems. Remember this is a free service, and we have a lot going on. So please do not bring in every computer you have at your home and think the Techies can provide free tech support for your family, friends, etc.

Teresa's Box of Indie Goodies

Teresa Moreno



Jenny Lewis has never heard of copyright laws. Red rum, Mrs. Torrance. (Photo courtesy of <http://www.amazon.com>)

Jenny Lewis Abandons Rilo Kiley, Sings Dumb Words Beautifully

After hearing the beautiful vocal stylizing of Jenny Lewis, the front woman of Rilo Kiley, it is easy to see why people such as Ben Gibbard (Death Cab for Cutie), Conor Oberst (Bright Eyes) and M. Ward have been drawn to her. When Oberst approached Lewis with the idea that perhaps she should put forth a solo effort, she was originally apprehensive about the project. She wasn't quite sure if she would succeed without her band, Rilo Kiley. What she did not seem to realize was that she was what made Rilo Kiley a powerful indie icon. After much indecision, Lewis agreed to the solo project and thus *Rabbit Fur Coat* was born.

Rabbit Fur Coat is ultimately a much different album than we are used to hearing from Lewis. On this solo effort she trades in the indie rock goddess persona and picks up southern gospel and country in its place. The Kentucky-born Watson twins, who are gospel singers, provide backup for her stunning vocals. The partnership of the twins and Lewis proves to be a good match. The twins have a way of sounding amazing without taking the limelight away from Lewis.

Lewis' vocals are the obvious positive on this album. In this instance (thanks to the help of

Lewis' friends the Bright Eyes), the production and recording of the music showcases her crisp, clear voice. Hearing the recording over her vocals is like taking in a fresh breath of air. Each song is sung with a special kind of intimacy that feels personal.

Rabbit Fur Coat does run into problems though. Just as with Rilo Kiley, the lyrics are bland and lackluster. The ideas and concepts behind her lyrics are thoughtful, but Lewis stops short of delivering ideas effectively. Lyrics such as "The phone is a fine invention / It allows me to talk endlessly to you / About nothing disguising my intentions / Which I'm afraid, my friend, are wildly untrue" show Lewis' struggle to find the words to share her thought-provoking ideas. Despite her best efforts, the lyrics ultimately fail to be stimulating on an intellectual level.

While the lyrics do leave the listener wanting a little more and the music itself seems slightly predictable, nothing can erase the fact that Lewis' voice is the starlet of this album. Even when singing some of the album's weaker songs, she still manages to make the song beautiful. Lewis' voice is a true beauty that is a rare find.

The musical Scorecard is used to give a numerical value to the quality of an album. A score of 10 is amazing, but a score of 1 would cause most listeners to cry out in pain. Five is an average score. The review does not express the opinion of *The Observer*.

Musical Scorecard:
Originality: 5
Lyrics: 4
Lasting Appeal: 7
Album Cover: 8
Total: 6/10

Firewall Amuses Audiences in All the Wrong Ways

By Katherine Stembel, Staff Writer

I went into *Firewall* thinking it was going to suck. Unfortunately, I was not pleasantly surprised and my low expectations were sufficiently fulfilled.

Normally, I am not too picky when it comes to movies. I'll accept paper-thin plots if the characters are full and evoke some kind of emotion. I'll also deal with flat acting if the plot is interesting enough to hold my attention. However, *Firewall* fulfilled neither of these qualifications.

It just sucked. But, wait, there's more! While it made for a painful action flick, it was absolutely delightful as a comedy. *Firewall* is the funniest movie I've seen all year. The flick was labeled as an action-crime-drama-thriller, but should have been

categorized under comedy because its unintentional humor is raucously successful. And the entire movie audience agreed with me, making sarcastic comments and clapping mockingly when the credits ran. Dramatically well-acted *Firewall* is not, but that fact is perhaps



Harrison Ford may not have been able to save *Firewall*, but four hip surgeries will slow down even the most agile 90-year-olds. (Photo courtesy of <http://movies.yahoo.com/shop?d=hv&id=1808750745&cf=pg&photoid=603299&intl=us>)

what provides the film's accidental comedy.

Harrison Ford plays Jack Stanfield, the network security director for a large bank. When his family is held for ransom, he must formulate a way to circumvent the security measures that he designed and steal

millions for the high-tech thief and his low-intelligence cronies. However, (gasp, shock, horror) he also devises a plan to prevent the robbers from making off with the money and his family.

Throughout the flick, I had the distinct feeling of "déjà vu." The tired plot flowed about as smoothly as *Firewall*'s failed bank robbery, and the movie reminded me of the plot of *Air Force One*, except Harrison Ford isn't the president. I felt as though I could have written the plot in my sleep and acted it out better, even after a heavy dose of tranquilizers.

So if you're looking for an action-crime-drama-thriller with minimal blood and profanity, save your \$8.50 and rent something guaranteed to be suspenseful.

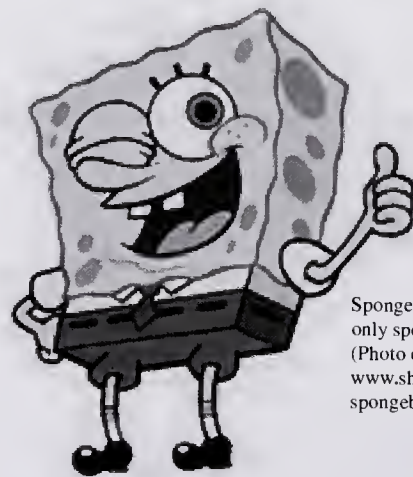
However, if you're interested in a perfect post-Valentine's chuckle, pop for a \$5.00 matinee show and yuck it up because even though *Firewall* promises dramatic tension, this reviewer promises a hearty belly laugh.

SpongeBob Absorbs Viewers

By BJ Houlding, Staff Writer

Who lives in a pineapple under the sea? Why, that's SpongeBob SquarePants, of course. Although the name is pretty self-explanatory, I'll break it down for you. SpongeBob is a sentient yellow sponge. He is square, as are his pants. And uh...sponges aren't very dense, so I guess he would bob? Let's go with that.

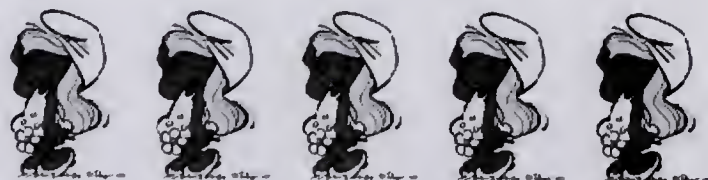
Anyway, SpongeBob is the star of his self-titled cartoon show on Nickelodeon. It's been airing since 1999 and is still going strong, with three made-for-TV movies and one major motion picture. SpongeBob lives in Bikini Bottom with an ensemble of eccentric sea creatures. His immediate neighbor is Squidward Tentacles, a phallic-nosed squid who is more anal than an OCD Martha Stewart clone. Also in the neighborhood is Patrick Star, a pink starfish with an intellect comparable to a dart frog with a glandular issue. Other cast members include a smart southern squirrel on scientific sabbatical named Sandy Cheeks, an entrepreneurial penny-pinching arthropod called Eugene Crabs, and a nefarious nekton named Plankton.



SpongeBob pretends to wink. He was the only sponge to lose an eye in Vietnam. (Photo courtesy of <http://www.shippony.com/coolestkid/clipart/spongebob-image-03.jpg>)

The gang gathers together for two 15-minute expeditions per episode. Common activities include jellyfishing (a pastime comparable to that of lepidopterists), boating school (similar to driver's education), and escapades at the McDonald's-like Krusty Krab, SpongeBob and Squidward's place of employment. Occasional songs and pop-culture-referencing monologues are thrown in to add to the hilarity.

SpongeBob may be marketed for kids, but there are plenty of higher-level jokes for the college and adult crowd to enjoy. It has become the top rated show of Nickelodeon's line-up, and is still going strong today. For the abundance of humorous situations and its tenacity of character for six plus years, SpongeBob SquarePants earns five Smurfs.



Proof that Censorship is Necessary to Stop People Like Me

By Joe Larson, Co-Editor in Chief

There are a lot of rumors floating around right now about banned articles and freeze-dried orphans from Panama, so let me set the record straight with a confusing series of half truths and double negatives. First of all, I did not spend all day Sunday writing a 2,000-word article on a topic that I've been explicitly forbidden from mentioning due to various ethical considerations and three separate paternity suits. That would imply that there was some sort of overall editorial process for the *Observer*, a phenomenon that hasn't existed for our humble paper since the Taft administration reclassified children with Down syndrome as livestock. Secondly, any rough drafts that may have surfaced concerning the nonexistent article were almost certainly fabricated by one of my many enemies, who undoubtedly hoped to disqualify me from consideration for the Nobel Peace Prize and Miss Universe Pageant. Although it may be hard to believe, my unique style of maliciously inflammatory journalism has garnered its fair share of detractors over the years, among whom are women, bird-flu scientists, fictional holiday characters, the nation of Finland, and all the Down syndrome kids I use to pull farm implements on my ranch. Any one of these questionable parties could have thrown together the rough draft to destroy my good name as I selflessly spent my weekend evading border patrols with shipments of rapidly-thawing Panamanian orphans. Finally, the nonexistent article that I didn't write is no longer on my hard drive, on hundreds of printed copies that I'm not selling along with dime bags of marijuana, and in an email that I didn't send to the president of Iran. Even I lost track of what I meant with that last sentence, so I'm just going to end the paragraph with a random word and pretend that it didn't happen. Poop.

This whole nonexistent incident has really caused me to rethink my methods insofar as it is possible for one to question perfection. After all, I've been on the New York Times Bestseller List nine times, and I just missed the cut for getting my own book in the Bible. Is it really possible for someone with my credentials to cross the line from awesomely entertaining to awesomely offensive? The short answer is of course "no" since my articles pretty much redefine the English language through their general sense of humility and courageous disregard for the truth. For lesser writers, however, the issue of censorship in the print media is a serious concern that needs to be addressed by an expert on hot-button topics like balancing the public's right-to-know against the journalist's right to lie. I may not be such an expert, but I did get disqualified from the Miss Universe Pageant, so I have nothing better to do. The following is an in-depth examination of censorship in the

media based entirely on the article I didn't write and that time I got bit by a raccoon when I was ten.

The single greatest argument for censorship in the media is people like me. Without someone limiting what I can say, I'd probably make comments like "catching gay butterflies should be considered a hate crime" and "there is no wrong way to hurt the Amish." Thankfully, such statements could never make it into print because there are regulations in place allowing censors to issue a harsh reprimand for my first offense and to kill my entire family for the second. Not every lapse in journalistic integrity will lead to gangland-style slayings, but the vast majority will. As far as guidelines on the matter are concerned, it is generally okay to insult women since they're not actually people, but religions must be approached with a bit more caution. While attacking a particular gender could potentially offend half the population of the earth, going after any one faith will never affect many more than a paltry billion people. Out of those billion people, however, at least one or two can be expected to confront you about your work, so it is best to buy a Kevlar vest or at least some thick mosquito netting. Of course, the members of some religions will react more strongly than others. While Christians might shrug off a remark about Jesus's well-documented love for fast cars and pirated music, Hindus will kick you in the groin if you even think about eating a cheeseburger. This can be attributed to the fact that censorship in religious matters must be used arbitrarily to override the freewill of one group with the faith-based beliefs of another. In some parts of the world right now, for example, people following an unnamed religion of sunshine and happy thoughts are making other people do the opposite of stay alive because something somewhere somehow made their rainbows and perky smiles go away. Divulging any more details than that could make these cheerful chums even more enthusiastic about making things be the opposite of not on fire, so the dictum of arbitrary censorship demands that we refrain from offending this particular religion. As for Catholics, they should be content with portraits of the Virgin Mary crafted in elephant dung and egocentric rappers posing as Jesus Christ. These offensive forms of expression are okay first because Catholics are massive pushovers and second because recent studies indicate that the Virgin Mary was in fact made from the fecal matter of a large land mammal and that Jesus actually did know how to lay down some hip beats. It's hard to argue with science,



Few people know that Jesus was actually a 21st-century rapper. Mary is not present in this picture because she ain't nothing but a gold digger. (Photo courtesy of http://www.fedrelandsvennen.no/multimedia/archive/00228/low_spa2b119_jpg_228436a.jpg)

especially when it suggests that the mother of God originated in the large intestine of an elephant.

The logical reaction to the situation might be to wonder why a picture of Kanye West as Jesus was really necessary on the cover of *Rolling Stone*, but that's why logic is for hippies and some of the larger chimpanzees. There is a simple reason why religions must be offended, rivers must be forded, and tight leather pants must be worn. It turns out that humanity is based on the principle that people must do stupid things simply because they can. Sir Edmund Hillary, the first man to climb Mt. Everest, once said he mounted his expedition up the mountain because it was there – and because he somehow thought that the fastest way around the tallest mountain in the

climbed five vertical miles in the snow to get to school. Later, mankind discovered an actual purpose for mountain climbing expeditions. Apparently wealthy, accomplished people climb Mt. Everest because they believe it is the ultimate challenge. To the rest of us, the mountain is a great way to let nature kill these people or at least to distract them long enough so the rest of us can sleep with their trophy wives. Similarly, Columbus sailed to the Americas just to prove that he could, and as a result he discovered the New World had the purpose of providing Europe with all new peoples to oppress. Americans later landed on the moon just to prove that we could, but we returned home almost immediately when we discovered that there was no one up there to conquer. But just like those stupid people on the mountain, someday we'll find a purpose for moon trips – probably by sending colonists to the moon and then sending other people to oppress them. In the same way, mankind will someday discover a purpose for offending every major religion save one on the planet, and when that day comes, thousands of years of senseless bloodshed will suddenly seem marginally less senseless.

In the meantime, it appears that mankind will have to rely on censorship to keep it safe. Of course, people could go without censorship and instead rely on self-control to prevent mayhem, but I have a hard time putting faith in such an unreliable method. For example, one time I read an opinion piece in the *New York Times* I disagreed with, so I stole a lawnmower and ran over a cat. Another time I saw an episode of *Trading Spaces* where one of the

rooms turned out really ugly, so I killed six people. Both of these instances are examples of free speech, which generally works best when it only applies to bland comments that everyone can agree with like "the holocaust never happened" and "running over cats with lawnmowers is a constitutional right." In order to be able to truly say whatever I want to while still preventing others from criticizing me in any way, however, I have decided that the only solution is to form my own incredibly repressive religion, which basically means believing everything I do now but applying for tax-exempt status.

My religion is sort of like Christianity, except that all the boring parts are replaced with explosive car wrecks and partial nudity. This new religion revolves around a single god so powerful that he makes the regular Christian God look like diet God or perhaps just God light. My god's name is Dan, and he likes to get drunk and run over people with his moped. That's kind of our version of the grim reaper, except that instead of going to any sort of afterlife, we just get back up and walk it off because we're that tough. We also have our own creation story, which happens to be very similar to the Christian creation story. Fortunately, there is no such thing as plagiarism in religion, because if there was the guy who copyrighted monotheism would be richer than Dan. Dan's creation story goes something like this: on the first day, Dan stole cable. It wasn't easy since the universe wasn't even created yet, but all things are possible with Dan. Then Dan spilled beer on his pants. It took him a full minute to realize that he hadn't created beer or pants yet, so he was suddenly very mad, sober, and cold. He was not pleased, so he took five days off. On the seventh day, Dan created the rest of the universe, which he later regretted since it was quickly filled with jerks and whiners. Dan learned many things from the universe he created, such as the fact that animals with claws are not good at giving mammograms. He then decided that the only way to set things right was to slowly destroy the universe one minor incident at time. Today, whenever someone knocks over a fat man on a motorized scooter and steals his Twinkies, that's just my god slowly bringing about the apocalypse.

Given the importance of these revelations, I suppose it really doesn't matter that I wasted sixteen hours of my life on a nonexistent article since I gained the chance to found a blasphemous religion instead. Dan works in mysterious ways.

Those who wish to convert to the religion of Dan can enter by sending an email to Observer-Editors@saintjoe.edu. My church is always eager to accept new members, assuming that that is actually the right email address.



For someone who came from the intestines of an elephant, Mary doesn't look too bad. (Photo courtesy of <http://faculty.dwc.edu/wellman/Ofilli.jpg>)

world was climbing to the top of it and then sliding down the other side. While Hillary's feat was almost entirely pointless, he had an obligation as a human being to do it just so he could someday tell his grandchildren how he

Puma Profile



Sullivan Sykes
(Men's Basketball)

Hometown? New Orleans, La.
High school? Marion Abramson Sr. High School (Abe)
Year? Senior
Major? Mass Communications and Physical Education
Favorite athlete? Michael Jordan
Favorite food? Lasagna
What's your favorite holiday? Any holiday that brings the family together.
How long have you been playing basketball? Going on 10 years.
What is in your CD player right now? Sade
Plans for future in athletics? I always dream of playing in the NBA.
Plans for the future outside of athletics? I love basketball too much to think of anything else, but if I had to choose something it would be a barber.
Favorite athletic team (college and pro)? I love college basketball period.
Goals for the season? As a team we want to win a national championship that's our main goal.
Favorite quote? "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me."
Favorite movies/tv shows? Anything that makes me laugh.
What is your greatest accomplishment? I haven't accomplished it yet, but just getting better everyday in basketball, I know some day I will finally (be able to) say I did it.

By Chase Sonen, Staff Writer

First Olympic Gold Medallist to Win Snowboard Cross Event

(Courtesy of www.olympic.org)

(As of February 16, 2006)
American Seth Wescott is the first Olympic gold medallist in the Snowboard cross event which makes its debut on the Olympic programme at the Games in Turin. In front of an enthusiastic crowd in Bardonecchia, the 29 year-old North Carolina native finished with 1000 points placing him ahead of Radoslav Zidek of Slovakia and Paul-Henri Delerue of France.

Snowboard cross is fast-paced and action-packed and had been compared by some to motocross. Athletes race against each other in groups of four on a specially built 700m snowboard cross course that includes banked turns, jumps and waves. No points are given for style and the first athlete across the finish line wins.
Snowboard cross makes its Olympic debut in Turin having been added to the Olympic Programme in 2003. Snowboard

was introduced at the Games in 1998 in Nagano, with medal events for men and ladies in the giant slalom and in the halfpipe. At the Games in 2002 in Salt Lake City, the programme was modified so that both men and ladies competed in the parallel giant slalom and not the giant slalom.

GLVC Standings

(Men's Basketball as of Saturday February 18, 2006)

West Division Teams	GLVC	Overall
Souther Illinois University-Edwardsville	14-3	21-4
Drury	13-4	19-6
Southern Indiana	12-5	23-5
Quincy	12-5	17-8
Missouri - St. Louis	6-11	13-12
Rockhurst	7-10	11-14
Missouri - Rolla	0-17	2-23

East Division Teams	GLVC	Overall
Saint Joseph's	14-2	24-2
Northern Kentucky	10-6	15-9
Bellarmino	10-7	13-12
UW - Parkside	8-9	15-10
Lewis	6-11	12-13
Indianapolis	3-14	4-21
Kentucky Wesleyan	3-14	6-18



PURPLE PUMA PANDEMONIUM!

Let's show our support for Puma basketball by wearing LOTS of purple to the remaining home games... who knows you just may receive a prize!



Lady Puma Profile



Photo courtesy of Ashley Hughes

Ashley Hughes (Women's Basketball)

Birthday? December 24th
Hometown? Perrysville, IN
High school? North Vermillion High School
Sports in high school? Track, volleyball, basketball, softball
Greatest accomplishment(s) in sports? Winning a State Basketball Championship in High School.
Year? Senior
Major? Biology
Length of basketball experience? As long as I can remember.
Clubs & offices held if any? ALD and SAAC
Goals already met? We've already had more wins this season than in the last two combined.
Goals for season? To make it into the NCAA tournament.
Biggest improvement from last year? Communication and our work ethic. Coach Siegel has given us more confidence in ourselves and each other. We work harder and are more focused. She's very passionate about the game and I think that has rubbed off onto the team. She's a lot more fun too!
Favorite coach and why? Amy Siegel because she's inspired me and rekindled my love and passion for the game of basketball. Her system and

knowledge of the game have brought us success on the court and a deeper belief in each other.
Plans for future in athletics? Maybe...I've always been interested in coaching.
Most admired professor? Father Stang
Favorite athlete? Sue Bird and Manu Ginobili
Favorite athletic team (college and pro)? Tennessee Lady Vols and San Antonio Spurs
Favorite music/band? Country
Food? Shells and cheese
Colors? Orange
Movies? *My Best Friend's Wedding* (but anything with Julia Roberts).
Television shows? Friends
Someone you'd like to meet? Manu Ginobili and the creator of Sunkist.
Favorite quotes/ song lyric? "Always, and without fear, go confidently in the direction of your dreams."
Something many people don't know about you? I play the piano.
Greatest accomplishment(s) in life? My faith.
Hero? My Grandma, she is dedicated to God, love, and keeping her family close. She has shown me the value of hard work and kindness. She is an inspiration to me and never fails to put others in front of herself.

By Erika Osborne, Staff Writer



The Olympics: Not the Great American Pastime

By Elizabeth Klocek, Columnist

Does not watching the Olympics make me un-American? Is it bad that I see the Olympics as the usurper of my favorite primetime shows? Even if the Olympics are not on the same channel as my favorite shows, they force the remaining channels into reruns and overplayed movies; it's no good. My sources would say I am not the only un-American one in the bunch; apparently the entire country could care less about the athletes in Turin (or wherever they may be, my ambivalence/animosity extends to all incarnations of the Olympics regardless of the season or year). The American thing to do is to watch *American Idol*. But I don't watch that either, so perhaps for that, you can call me un-American. In fact, I probably hate *American Idol* more than I hate the Olympics, so you may as well deport me.

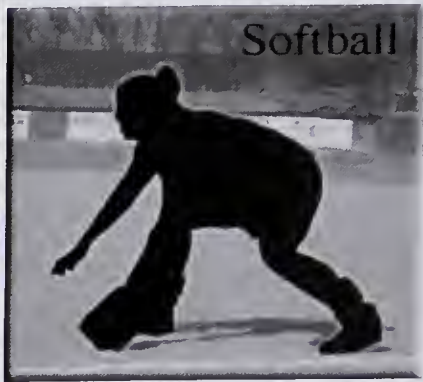
I am utterly and completely bored by the hours of coverage NBC and its half-bred cousins air day after day when the Olympics roll around. I understand that some people have devoted their entire lives to training for this one opportunity, and that some people, for whatever reason, actually enjoy watching curling. I have no idea what curling is or what its point may be, but from my brief encounter with it the other day, it appears to be a combination of shuffleboard, hockey and Lord knows what else, and perhaps a bit of bocce thrown in. Is that a sport that little kids aspire to? I don't recall saying to Mom and Dad when I was a girl, gee whiz, let's push a rock around on the ice with sticks, but first, let's bust out some razor blades (I have no idea) and destroy the ice, and then let's try to nail some arbitrary painted circle, and if we can't do that, let's ruin everybody's else fun by knocking their rock out of the way . . . so wait, does that make it like croquet too? I am so confused as to what that particular sport is trying to be; I think it suffers from multiple personalities. It needs psychiatric help, not a TV audience.

At either the Summer or Winter Olympics there are at least some sports the rest of us

can comprehend: skiing, the luge or bobsledding (sledding at its best and most dangerous), swimming, softball, basketball etc. I can get behind these sports, that doesn't mean I am going to watch them, oh no, but if I happen to stumble upon them my eyes won't glaze over in incomprehension (spell-check appears to think that is a word, I doubt it, but I shall move on anyway), it would not be as if I were at the worst Core lecture known to man (every one has their own personal hell in this respect, so I shall not name names).

I have just visited the official Olympics website, and I may have had a change of heart, in so far as that the Winter Olympics appear to be the red-headed stepchildren of the Olympic movement. There are seven sports that comprise the Winter Games, compared to the *twenty-nine* that make up the Summer Games. Too bad if you prefer to exercise your athletic talents in the freezing cold I suppose. I have also learned that there are recognised (I use the foreign spelling as the website does) sports, among them: bandy (I have no idea), boules (ditto), chess (we all know what I think of chess), korfbal (I have two problems with this one. First, spell-check did not say that korfbal was misspelled, and second, I think people are just making things up for kicks), life saving (this is a sport?), orienteering (I am running out of disbelief), tug of war (now this should return to the Olympics where it belongs, this is fun for everybody), and wushu (I just don't know). There are others but I believe them to be legitimate. I define legitimate as: I have heard of them.

I am not sure if there is a solution regarding the Olympics, I'm sure someone somewhere would be horribly offended by what I have said (but that would mean someone besides myself would have read this article, and that seems unlikely), but I think I make a legitimate point: too much coverage . . . of sports nobody comprehends and not enough tug of war. If only people would listen to me, world peace would surely result.



Softball: Prospective Puma Powerhouse

By Allison Segarra, Sports Editor

If any of you are avid readers of this exemplary sports section, then you may have noticed that I (your loving Sports Editor) am partial to baseball. And my co-editor (I mean columnist) is also partial to baseball and is famous for giving a women's perspective on competitive sports. Therefore, I am more than pleased to present to you, the reader, my favorite article thus far: Puma Softball. As my boyfriend (and softball Superfan) would say, "It's women, it's baseball, it's delicious!"

You may be wondering what magic could keep twenty unique ladies performing as a cohesive, non-hair pulling unit. The answer: chemistry. No not HBO after midnight chemistry! These ladies have harbored an endless supply of positive energy since fall, when they reined victorious over thirty teams at the Chicagoland Fall Softball Classic. Head coach Frank Wilkins expects the approaching spring season to follow suit. "We could be one of the top four teams in our conference." Coach Wilkins holds his team in high esteem noting, "I expect to break all the team records this year."

There is no doubt that the four returning upperclassmen are prepared to meet these high expectations. Senior third baseman Jill Kapitan, senior pitcher Ashley Heatwole, junior

outfielder Nicole Fetla, and junior infielder Shelley Hammons definitely have had the experience and still hold the drive to lead their team to the very pinnacle of softball success. Kapitan revealed to me her secret for team triumph, "We definitely have the talent, we just need to stay motivated!"

Motivation can definitely be found in this year's group of freshman. Courtney Ambrosch, Ashlee Catalani, Jennifer Chumley, Nicole Enright, Stephanie Kickels, Stefanie Madsen, Gianna Pavone, Helene Stefanik, Sara Somogyi and Cheryl Zakowski prove to be quintessential aspects of this season's lineup. Coach Wilkins expects serious power behind the bats of Pavone and Ambrosch. Speed is the specialty of Madsen, and Somogyi adds a fresh arm to the pitching staff. Last year the staff was second in the conference. This year Coach Wilkins believes they can grasp first. With returning heat from Heatwole and power from sophomore Jesse Privett, even teammate Kickels is "intimidated" by these arms. New pitching coach Fred Terpstra may have something to do with this amazing staff.

Kickels has every confidence in her teammates both freshman and senior alike. She said, "I am proud to say that no matter what,

there will always be someone on the bench ready to make the plays." These women have power behind their bats, as well as an extreme amount of diversity on the field. Most of the Pumas can play almost any position, if called to do so. Personally, I am eager to see who will definitively replace the infamous catcher, first base duo that graduated in '05. Michelle Ellis and Merissa Kapelinski certainly have some big shoes (literally) to fill. But, just like the players, I have every confidence that these ladies will be something more than spectacular this season.

Fans, keep your eyes on the bats of powerhouses Kapitan, Ambrosch, Pavone, and Privett. Of course that would require you to come out to the softball field and show some support! Kickels promises that it will be "worth your time". As the Puma softball number one Superfan for the fourth consecutive spring season, I feel more than comfortable confirming that promise. Like I said, girls and baseball, what could be better, I mean better than that?! These Pumas begin their season on the road to Southern Illinois Edwardsville the last weekend of February and return to fly out (that's right FLY out) to Florida to kick some a** over spring break!



Strangely enough...

strange pictures from around campus of things that you're not likely to see every day.



Tennisball. It's all the rage.
Seniors Liz Henning and Jean Monfort join juniors Teresa Moreno and Katy Steiner in search of a tennis ball that went out of bounds under the soda machine in Schwietermann. Steiner uses her supernatural talents to save the day.



Happy Birthday, Mr. President?
Junior Nikita Hall, senior Jen Savage, junior Megan Barker, junior Andy Earnest, sophomore Dani Klosowski, and Omega editor Liz Henning pose for a picture on Nikita Hall's birthday in Halas.

What Is This Feeling?

Columbian Players Elizabeth Wissel, Teresa Moreno, David Spencer, Marcie Keyes, George White, B. J. Houlding, David Santangelo, and Sarah Kennedy stop for a photo op. before seeing a performance of the musical *Wicked* in Chicago.



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Celebrate women and help bring an end to the violence imposed against them by attending

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The Vagina Monologues

at the Star Plaza Theatre in Merrillville, IN, on March 2, 2006, at 7 PM. Tickets run between \$30 and \$50 and are available through Ticketmaster at www.ticketmaster.com.

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Eight Below

Fri: 5:20, 7:30 (PG)
Sat: 3:10, 5:20, 7:30
Sun: 3:10, 5:20, 7:30
Mon-Th: 5:20, 7:30

Date Movie

Fri: 5:30, 7:00, 9:00 (PG-13)
Sat: 3:40, 5:30, 7:00, 9:00
Sun: 3:40, 5:30, 7:00
Mon-Th: 5:30, 7:00

Pink Panther

Fri: 6:50 (PG)
Sat: 3:30, 6:50
Sun: 3:30, 6:50
Mon-Th: 6:50

When a Stranger Calls

Fri: 5:10, 9:10 (PG-13)
Sat: 5:10, 9:10
Sun: 5:10
Mon-Th: 5:10

Final Destination

Fri: 5:40, 7:20, 9:00 (R)
Sat: 3:50, 5:40, 7:20, 9:00
Sun: 3:50, 5:40, 7:20
Mon-Th: 5:40, 7:20

Firewall

Fri: 5:15, 7:10, 9:05 (PG-13)
Sat: 3:20, 5:15, 7:10, 9:05
Sun: 3:20, 5:15, 7:10
Mon-Th: 5:15, 7:10

What's Your Sign?

Divined by our own Auntie Cleo



Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 17)

You are the hottest thing since sliced bread and most definitely the life of the party. Get out and have a ball! Take advantage of this new found popularity before your five minutes of fame end.

Pisces (Feb. 18-March 20)

Stop playing by the rules- can't you see that they haven't gotten you anywhere? This is the time when good guys finish last. You have the strength, so get off the sidelines and enter the game. Be a rebel and go after what you want!

Aries (March 21-April 19)

You are flowing with energy - don't let it go to waste. Start a new workout routine or join an intramural team. Others (especially that certain someone you have been eyeing) will notice the new you.

Taurus (April 20-May 19)

You are a good friend for a reason. People confide in you because they know you are trustworthy. So why have you been spilling everyone's secrets lately? If you do not learn to keep your lips sealed you may end up friendless.

Gemini (May 20-June 20)

Does someone have a major case of the crabby's? Eat some chocolate and move on with life. Your family wants what is best for you; take their advice with a grain of salt. You are an adult now- it is time you start making your own decisions.

Cancer (June 21-July 21)

Stop worrying about the future and live for the now. Things will all come together whether you stress out or not. You are your own worst enemy right now. It is time to take a chill pill and have a blast.

Leo (July 22-Aug. 22)

This new look you have been trying out is a total flop. Change is not always a good thing, especially now! Find comfort in who you are and stop trying to be something you are not. Remember, beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 21)

Things all around you seem to be spinning out of control. Take a step back and get a grip on what is truly important. Find a balance with work and play. Don't forget about yourself! We all need "me" time.

Libra (Sept. 22-Oct. 22)

Stand you for yourself! Do you like being talked to like a child? Stop taking everyone's crap and let them know how you feel. You are being taken advantage of- do not let people walk all over you. You have a mouth- use it!

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

You have a smile that kills. Use it to your advantage. This is your time to strut your stuff and show the world your hot bod. Gain some confidence, but do not let your head expand too much.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 20)

You have a friend who needs you right now. Be there when they need you. Get them away from this campus and show them a good time. Also, get your Zzz's, you will need them to keep up with your hectic schedule.

Capricorn (Dec. 21-Jan. 19)

Hey crabapple, stop being so mean to the one you love. You are very hard to get along with right now. Maybe it is time to reevaluate your relationship and your faults. Focus on the good rather than the bad.

Overheard

Hear something absurd or ridiculous lately? Want to embarrass your friends? Well, all randomly heard comments are anonymous, but feel free to e-mail what you have overheard to your Omega editors at dwj5079@saintjoe.edu.

Aerosmith...isn't that a book?

Yeah, we half-ass things up in Detroit.

Everyone gets laid on election night.

I can't just get a badger and tear it up with my teeth.

He makes it clear about fifteen different places in that article that he's making fun of himself and other women.

Banana Republic: the yuppie emporium got its name from the political term - not the other way around!

The soapy bubbles of death!

I'm not disturbed by the sex scene in the middle of the woods. I'm disturbed by the fact that pythons aren't indigenous to England.

If you're gonna read Hamlet, at least read it in the original Klingon.

I can see the headline now: "Local lawyer calls priest a peckerhead."

Yeesh...what a tangled web we weave.

Beorscipe this Friday!

Keith Richards probably shouldn't be getting that toked at his age...

I'll take my chances with the iguanas.

Cheats or no cheats, it matters not!

You know what I can't stand? 'Christian Rock.' It's a flippin' oxymoron!

Am I just the lips here?